Expenses on cultivation in fixing MSP

†4681. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from farmers in the country, demanding to pay special attention to the expenses incurred by them on cultivation, while deciding the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of their produces;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action thereon, so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Representations about the fixation of Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) are received from farmers and due note is taken thereof. The cost of production is the most important factor taken into account by the CACP while formulating its recommendations on price policy of agricultural commodities. The cost of production covers not only paid out costs but also imputed value of owned assets including land and family labour for which the farmers do not incur cash expenses. The Government, while fixing MSPs, duly takes into account the recommendations of the CACP, views of State Governments and concerned Central Ministries alongwith other factors considered important in price fixation.

Output of Agricultural Growth

4682. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's agricultural production for 2001-2002 is set to grow 7.2 per cent;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the foodgrain production was expected to grow by 7.6 per cent while non-foodgrain production would increase by 6.6 per cent;

(c) if so, whether the year's growth in agricultural production has been handsome, but it reflected decline in the last two years;

(d) whether India's foodgrain stocks were expected to reach 75 millon tonnes by July, 2002; and

(e) if so, efforts are being made to improve the output of agricultural growth in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) According to the index of agricultural production with base triennium ending 1981-82=100, the growth rate of production of foodgrains, non-foodgrains and all principal crops during 2001-2002 is expected to be 8.57%, 5.03% and 7.10% respectively as per the advance estimates on 5.4.2002.

During 1999-2000, while the foodgrains production had registered a positive growth, that of non-foodgrain and all principal crops had shown a decline. During 2000-01, all three groups *viz.* foodgrains, non-foodgrains and all principal crops had registered a decline.

(d) The stock of foodgrains in the Central pool as on 1.7.2002 is likely to be 62.00 million tonnes.

(e) The agricultural production in the country shows a long-term upward trend. In order to further improve the performance of the agriculture sector, the Government have launched various new initiatives such as promotion of watershed development programmes,

emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network and National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. Besides, the Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price and Market Intervention Schemes, procurement by public agencies and by using instruments of trade. Apart from these, the Government have also switched over from the conventional schematic approach to macro-management from November, 2000 for providing assistance to the States. The Macro-Management Scheme integrates 27 schemes into one for supplementing and complementing the efforts of State Governments through work plans. This gives flexibility to States to address specific problems faced by them depending on local requirements, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim at all-round development of agriculture.

Agricultural Universities

†4683. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central Agricultural Universities being run in the country;

(b) the number of such universities in the country which are not having their own buildings; and

(c) the details of proposals for setting up of new agricultural universities in various States during Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) One Central Agricultural University has been established with its headquarter at Imphal.

(b) Nil.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.